

Application No.: 09/750,465

Docket No.: JCLA6707

**REMARKS****Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action objected the Drawings, title of the invention and abstract, and objected claims 1 and 4, and rejected all presently pending claims 1-6. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Higaki (US 5,796,970). Furthermore, the Office Action rejected claims 1, 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Higaki (US 5,796,970). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and states clearly how the application distinguishes from the Higaki. Applicant respectfully asserts that the Higaki does not anticipate any pending claims in the application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

**Discussion of Office Action Objections**

The Office Action objected the Drawings and Specification as having informalities therein. In order to correct the informalities, Fig.1 and Specification, including title of the invention, abstract and claims, are amended as stated above according to suggestion proposed by the Office Action.

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**Discussion of Office Action Rejections**

[35 USC 102 discussion]

After entering the amendment in the claims, claim 4 is patentable over Higaki at least because the Higaki does not disclose the feature of "...adding the N bits together to form an initial count value;" as claimed in claim 4. More specifically, statement in column 7, lines 65-66, and Fig. 4 and Fig. 6D of the Higaki discloses that, **value of Output1 is not produced by simply adding 6 bits of the Input together.** In other words, value of Output1 is related to first 7 bits of the Input, and adding these 7 bits does not produce the value of Output1. The Higaki obviously does not disclose all elements claimed in claim 4 and therefore claim 4 is patentable over Higaki.

For at least the same reason, claim 6 is patentable over Higaki as a matter of law since claim 4 is patentable over Higaki.

[35 U.S.C. 103 discussion]

After entering the amendment in the claims, claim 1 is patentable over Higaki at least because Higaki does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of "... an adder for receiving the N-bit decode information and adding the N bits together to produce an initial count value;" as claimed in claim 1. More specifically, statement in column 7, lines 65-66, and Fig. 4 and Fig. 6D of the Higaki, on which are Office Action depends, discloses that **value of Output1 is not produced by simply adding 6 bits of the Input together.** Value of Output1 in Fig. 6D of Higaki can be obtained by adding the first six bits and the value of the seventh bit multiplies 10 together. Therefore, **Output1 can not be obtained by simply adding the bits of Input.**

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Moreover, the Higaki does not propose any suggestion to obtain Output1 by simply adding bits of Input. Since the value of Output1 in Higaki corresponds to the initial count value in the present invention and the value of Output1 can not be obtained by adding bits of Input, the Higaki obviously does not teach or suggest to obtain an initial count value by adding bits together. Therefore, it is not obvious for those skilled in the art to know that the initial count value can be obtained by directly adding bits together.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Higaki at least because the reasons stated above. Claims 2-3 are patentable over Higaki as a matter of law since claim 1 is patentable.

Moreover, claim 4 is patentable over Higaki at least because the same reasons applied on claim 1, and claims 5-6 are patentable over Higaki as a matter of law since claim 4 is patentable.

Furthermore, although the Office Action asserts that those skilled in the art can utilize a down counter to replace the group register transfer circuitry in Higaki for simplify the circuitry, the applicant respectfully doubt that. Since the replacement does not suggest by any public document or production, the applicant can not agree with this point of view provided by the Office Action.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 4 patently define over the prior art reference, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-3 and 5-6 patently define over the prior art as well.

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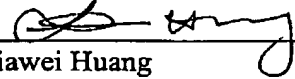
**CONCLUSION**

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-6 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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